

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION  
JOINT BIOMEDICAL LABORATORY/CLINICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND  
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

**MINUTES OF THE FALL 2006 MEETING OF THE  
MERIT REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE FOR HEMATOLOGY**

A Teleconference was held on November 16, 2006 at the VA Central Office, 1722 I Street, N.W. (Room 915), Washington, DC. The meeting began at 10:00 a.m. and adjourned at 3:30 p.m. The Chairperson, Dr. Alan Gewirtz, presided throughout the meeting.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Alan M. Gewirtz, M.D.  
Joseph Fontana, M.D., Ph.D.  
Stephen Peiper, M.D.

**MEMBER(S) ABSENT**

Perumal Thiagarajan, M.D.

**AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)**

Vahid Afshar-Kharghan, M.D., Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX  
Michael Bromberg, M.D., Ph.D., Temple University, Philadelphia, PA  
\*Mary Brophy, Department of Veterans Affairs, Boston, MA  
Philip C. Comp, M.D., Ph.D., ACOS, VA Healthcare System, Oklahoma City, OK  
Elizabeth A. Eklund, M.D., Northwestern University, Chicago, IL  
Robert Franco, Ph.D., University of Cincinnati Medical College, Cincinnati, OH  
Ronald B. Gartenhaus, M.D., Baltimore VA Medical Center, Baltimore, MD  
Ulhas Naik, Ph.D, University of Delaware, Newark, DE

\*Review only

**VACO STAFF PRESENT**

Zafar Iqbal, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Subcommittee for Hematology,  
Research and Development  
Brenda Bean, Program Assistant, Research and Development

**OBSERVER(S)**

None

The minutes of the last meeting of the Subcommittee were read and approved.

Dr. Iqbal welcomed the Subcommittee members and thanked them for their cooperation. He highlighted the written guidelines for each scoring category and asked the members to use descriptors for evaluating the merit, rather than a single number. Dr. Iqbal informed the members that there will be a secondary level of review for significance and relevance of the proposed research to the VA mission. He stressed the need for explicit and detailed Summary Statements addressing significance, approach, and feasibility as they are the only basis of an appeal. He reminded the Subcommittee of the VA policies of inclusion of women and minorities in clinical research, confidentiality, and conflict of interest.

The date of May 18, 2007, was established for the Spring 2007 meeting.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 14 Merit Review Programs.

One proposal was deemed not competitive and was not discussed or scored.

Full details of all Subcommittee actions are contained in the Summary Statements prepared by the Subcommittee. Subcommittee members were informed that the proceedings and recommendations pertaining to the merit review of component research programs are considered to be privileged information.

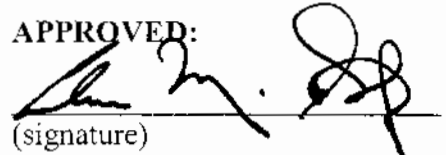
**SUBMITTED:**

  
(signature)

ZAFAR IQBAL, PH.D.  
Portfolio Manager

3/2/07  
(date)

**APPROVED:**

  
(signature)

ALAN M. GEWIRTZ, M.D.  
Chairperson

4/16/2007  
(date)